

Uriah Loper House
Near Seeley, Cumberland County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-514

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6-SEP-1971

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Uriah Loper House
Near Secley, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: Elmer E. Mixner

Date of Erection: 1786

Architect:

Builder: Probably Uriah Loper

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Brick unit one and one-half; frame
section two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick; frame
addition of later date

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimney

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This small brick house stands on a tract formerly known as Winchomb Manor; this was a 5000 acre tract owned in 1689 by Cornelius Mason of London. Neither Mason or his heirs ever saw the manor, but it remained in their possession for nearly a century. It was sold to Israel Pemberton, a Quaker of Philadelphia. We do not know how Uriah Loper acquired possession, but from a deed of Zachus Loper to his mother Elizabeth made in 1808, we learn that Zachus acquired a 25 acre piece with the house from the commissioners who divided the estate of his father Uriah in 1807. The property remained in the Loper family until Elizabeth, widow of Elmer R. Loper, deeded it to the present owner in 1927.

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A further search at Trenton casts doubt on our assumption that Uriah Loper was the probable builder of the house. There is a deed on record dated December 14, 1791 in which James Loper, Sr. of the Township of Deerfield, Cumberland County, gives to his son Arthur a house and forty-four acres of land and to his son Uriah the remaining land "and he has the liberty of the log house to lodge in while at work here, himself alone". Just exactly what that means is difficult to say. It may be that Uriah was building the house of the survey, but that would mean a gap of five years or more in the date on the gable. The other assumption would be that James Loper built the house and left it to his son Arthur and Uriah later acquired it because a division of land of the estate of Uriah in 1807 definitely shows that he owned the house.

Bibliography:

A search of records in the Secretary of State's Office by Robert M. Falcey,
Mercer County Office

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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